A New Book from the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles

THE HERPETOFAUNA OF NEW CALEDONIA

by AARON M. BAUER *and* ROSS A. SADLIER

with French summaries by Ivan Ineich and 189 color photographs

NEW CALEDONIA, INCLUDING THE LOYALTY ISLANDS AND AN ASsociated group of smaller islands and reefs, is a French territory located in the tropical Southwest Pacific equidistant from New Guinea, New Zealand, and Australia. This ancient group of islands supports one of the most highly endemic and species-rich herpetofaunas in the Pacific region. Among the 71 species of terrestrial reptiles, 86% are endemics, and most belong to endemic genera. Despite being only 2.5% the size of New Guinea, New Caledonia has 36% as many lizard species. In addition, the New Caledonian barrier reef system, one of the largest and most diverse in the world, is inhabited by a dozen species of seasnakes. Because of the diversity of its flora and fauna and the fragility of its habitats, New Caledonia is regarded as a biodiversity "hot spot," one of the earth's biologically richest and most endangered terrestrial ecoregions.

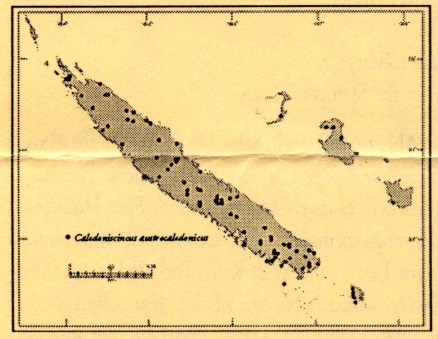
This book—at the same time a scientific monograph and a field guide—is the first modern review of the amphibians and reptiles of New Caledonia. It covers the frogs, family Hylidae (1 species), geckos of the families Diplodactylidae (20) and Gekkonidae (6), the Scincidae (42), snakes of the families Boidae (1), Elapidae (12, all marine), and Typhlopidae (2), and the sea turtles, Cheloniidae (3). Geckos and skinks, in fact, are the most numerous and dominant terrestrial vertebrates in New Caledonia. These two groups have undergone extensive generic and specific diversification, including the world's largest living geckos (*Rhacodactylus*) and more than a dozen genera of skinks including the giant skinks (*Phoboscincus*).

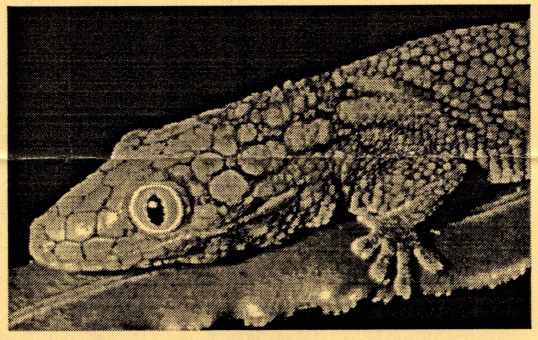
The authors, Aaron M. Bauer (USA) and Ross A. Sadlier (Australia) are both noted authorities on the Pacific herpetofauna. Their extensive field work in New Caledonia began more than 20 years ago. As a result of their research, numerous new genera and species of New Caledonian geckos and skinks have been described and named, but this book represents the first synthesis of their 20 years of study.

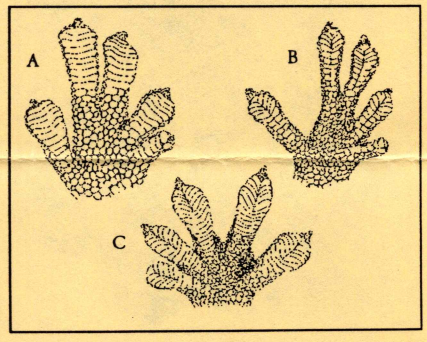
Organization of the Book

- Geography, Vegetation, Geological History, and Biogeography
- Ecological Patterns of Terrestrial and Marine Species
- Conservation
- Humans and the Herpetofauna, including a History of Scientific Studies
- Systematic Accounts of Genera and Species:
  Keys; Synonymies; Descriptions; Distribution (spot map for each species); Natural History; Conservation Status; Remarks and Status
- Incidental Taxa, Taxa of Questionable Occurrence, and Those Erroneously Recorded from New Caledonia
- Fossil and Subfossil Species
- Literature Cited and Bibliography of New Caledonian Herpetology (more than 1000 references)
- Gazetteer of Place Names; Index to Scientific Names

The 153 color photographs of animals depict nearly every species. There are also 36 photographs of New Caledonian habitats.







Specifications: 325 pages, 7 × 10 inches (18 × 22.5 cm), plus 189 color photographs of animals and habitats on 24 plates, 47 maps, 63 figures, and 4 tables. Clothbound. ISBN: 0–916984–55–9. To be published December 2000.

PRICES: **Pre-publication to SSAR members US$50; Institutions and non-members US$60.** ***SHIPPING:*** **USA address, add US$3; non-USA, US$6**

SEND ORDERS TO: Dr. Robert D. Aldridge, SSAR Publications Secretary, Department of Biology, Saint Louis University, 3507 Laclede Avenue, Saint Louis, Missouri 63103–2010, USA (*telephone:* area code 314, 977–3916 or –1710; *fax:* 314, 977–3658; *e-mail:* ssar@slu.edu). Please make checks payable to "SSAR." Overseas orders must be paid in USA funds using a draft drawn on American banks or by International Money Order. Orders may also be charged to MasterCard or VISA (please provide the account number and card expiration date). SSAR membership information and a complete list of all Society publications can be obtained on request to Dr. Aldridge.

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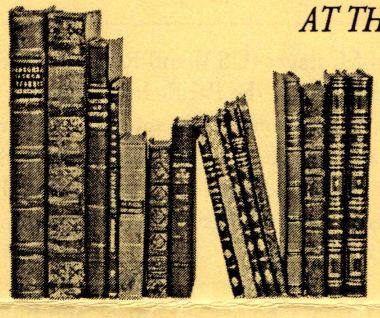
SLITHY TOVES

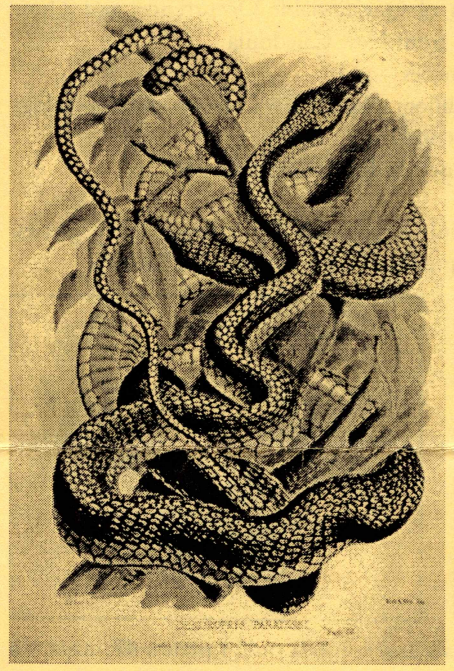
ILLUSTRATED CLASSIC HERPETOLOGICAL BOOKS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS IN PICTURES AND CONVERSATIONS

by Sally Haines

84 Illustrations in Full Color



THIS BOOK IS IN THE FORM OF A GALLERY GUIDE TO A REMARKABLE EXHIBIT OF ILLUSTRATED HERPETOlogical books dating from the 16th to the 20th centuries. It results from a display arranged by the Kenneth Spencer Research Library of the University of Kansas on the occasion of the 1996 SSAR meeting held at the university. Books such as these, many of which have exquisitely handcolored illustrations by some of the greatest natural history artists, are today kept under lock and key in institutional libraries and therefore are scarcely known to most herpetologists, but the enthusiasm of the SSAR conference goers for the Kansas exhibit has encouraged us to make this printed version available. The author, Sally Haines, Associate Special Collections Librarian at the Spencer Library, is in charge of the natural history collections.



The bulk of this volume consists of full-color reproductions of illustrations from classic works together with extensive captions containing information about the authors, the artists, and the books. It is an iconography of herpetology and an essential part of the history of the field.

Organization of the Book

Myth versus Reality: the Challenge of Illustrating Amphibians and Reptiles, *by Kraig Adler*
Part I — Herpetology to 1758: The Pre-Linnaean Period
Part II — Herpetology after 1758: Beyond Linnaeus
Part III — West of Eden: New World Herps
Part IV — The Seven Deadly Sins and other Evils: Herps as Symbol
References to Historical and Biographical Works
List of All Illustrated Herpetological Works in the Spencer Library
Chronological Index to Illustrated Herpetological Works in the Spencer Library

Some of the earliest books represented in this volume are by Pliny, Abbatius, Topsell, Seba, Linnaeus, and Rösel von Rosenhof, with later ones by Daudin, Rüppell, Bonaparte, Schlegel, and Fayrer, among many others. There is a special section on books about the Western Hemisphere, including works by Sloane, Catesby, Bartram, Spix, Holbrook, Cuvier, and Agassiz. The final section, on herps as symbol, includes religious manuscripts, sea serpents, astronomical atlases, and even illustrations from the works of John Milton, Mark Twain, and Walt Kelly. Included is a detailed listing of all illustrated herpetological works in the Spencer Library, which holds one of the great collections of natural history books. This volume represents a veritable treasure trove of some of the finest illustrations of amphibians and reptiles ever produced in book form and extensive bibliographic information about them.

Specifications: 190 pages, 8½ × 11 inches (21.5 × 28 cm), full color throughout (84 illustrations). Softcover. ISBN 0–916984–53–2. To be published December 2000.

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